

### Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A buffer composition for reducing spot size when spotted onto a support, the composition comprising:

a buffer effective for maintaining pH of aqueous composition at greater than or equal to about 6; and

~~an organic anion of formula I:  $R(X)_m(Y)_n$ ; in which:~~

~~R is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl-phytate; and a modified compound suitable for being immobilized on the support,~~

~~each X is independently carboxylate, phosphate, phosphonate, phosphinate, sulphate, sulphonate, thiocarboxylate, hydroxamate, or combination thereof;~~

~~each Y is independently amide, alcohol, ether, thiol, thioether, ester, thioester, borane, boric acid, or metal complex;~~

~~m is 1-7; and~~

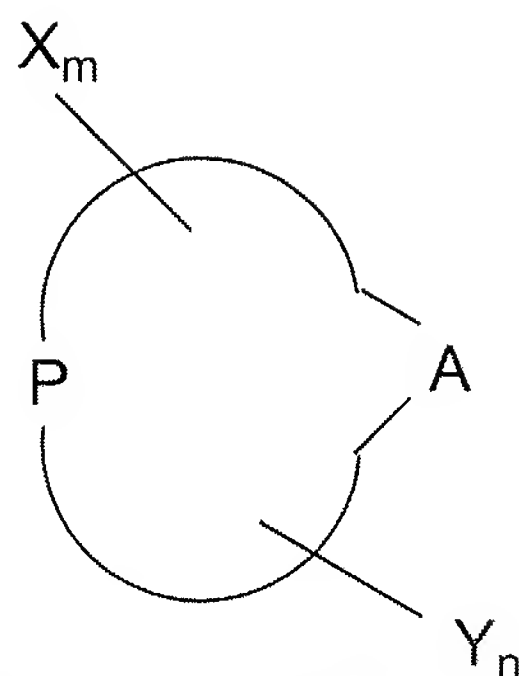
~~n is 0 or greater;~~

~~the organic anion phytate being effective to substantially decrease ring formation upon drying of a spot less than or equal to about 300  $\mu$ m diameter on a support.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein each Y is hydroxyl.

4. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the organic anion of formula I has the structure of represented by formula II:



in which P represents an 4-7 members of cyclic backbone comprising carbon with up to one heteroatom.

5. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 4, wherein each X is independently phosphate or sulfate.

6. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 4, wherein each Y is hydroxyl.

7-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The composition of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the compound comprises nucleic acid.

11. (original) The composition of claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid comprises DNA, RNA, or mixture thereof.

12. (original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising anionic or nonionic surfactant.

13. (original) The composition of claim 12, wherein the anionic surfactant comprises sodium dodecyl sulfate.

14. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the buffer comprises inorganic phosphate.

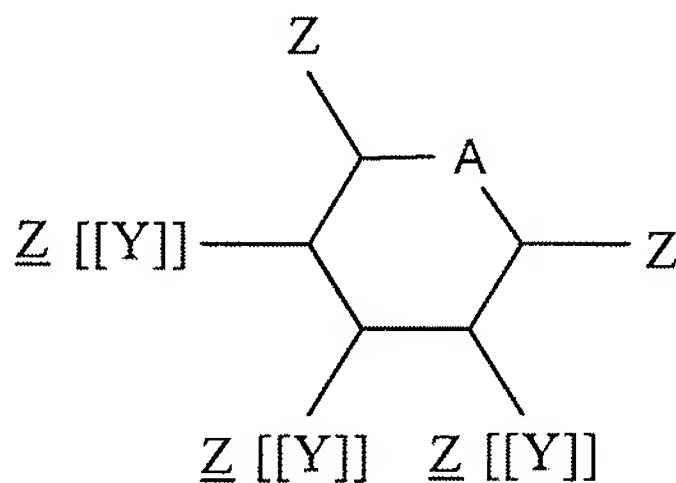
15. (original) The composition of claim 14, wherein the inorganic phosphate comprises about 10 to about 200 mM sodium or potassium phosphate at pH of about 7 to about 10.

16. (currently amended) A composition comprising:  
 a modified compound suitable for being immobilized on a support; and phytate  
~~organic anion of formula:  $R(X)_m(Y)_n$ ; in which:~~  
~~R is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;~~  
~~each X is independently carboxylate, phosphate, phosphonate,~~  
~~phosphinate, sulphate, sulphonate, thiocarboxylate, hydroxamate, or combination~~  
~~thereof;~~  
~~each Y is independently amide, alcohol, ether, thiol, thioether, ester,~~  
~~thioester, borane, boric acid, or metal complex;~~  
~~m is 1-7; and~~  
~~n is 0 or greater.~~

17. (currently amended) The composition of claim 16, wherein the modified compound comprises nucleic acid.

18. (original) The composition of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid comprises DNA, RNA, or mixture thereof.

19. (canceled) The composition of claim 16, wherein the organic anion of formula I has the structure of represented by Formula III:



in which:

Z is -OH, -OPO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -CH<sub>2</sub>-OPO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>; and  
at least one Z is -OPO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -CH<sub>2</sub>-OPO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>;

and

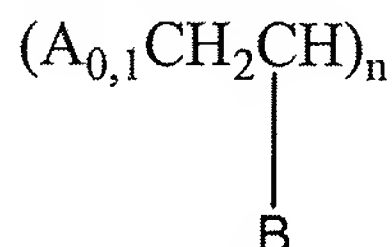
A is -CH-OPO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or O.

20. (canceled) The composition of claim 19, wherein the organic anion is phytate.

21. (original) The composition of claim 16, further comprising anionic surfactant.

22. (withdrawn) A composition comprising:  
a buffer effective for maintaining pH of aqueous composition at greater than or equal to about 6; and

neutral hydrophilic polymer of Formula V:



in which, A is absent, CH<sub>2</sub> or O;

n is about 100 to about 5000; and

B is -OH, -OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHR, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -SH, -SCH<sub>3</sub>,  
-COOR, -COSR, borane, boric acid, sulfone, amine oxide, or mixtures thereof;  
the neutral hydrophilic polymer being effective to substantially decrease ring  
formation upon drying of a spot less than or equal to about 300 μm diameter on a support.

23. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein A is absent, n is  
about 600 to about 1300, and B is -OH.

24. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the neutral  
hydrophilic polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

25. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 24, wherein the neutral hydrophilic polymer comprises and the polyvinyl alcohol comprises 88% hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol.

26. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 24, wherein the neutral hydrophilic polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol and the polyvinyl alcohol has a molecular weight of 31-51 kD.

27. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, further comprising compound suitable for being immobilized on the support.

28. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 27, wherein the compound comprises nucleic acid.

29. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 28, wherein the nucleic acid comprises DNA, RNA, or mixture thereof.

30. (original) The composition of claim 22, further comprising anionic or nonionic surfactant.

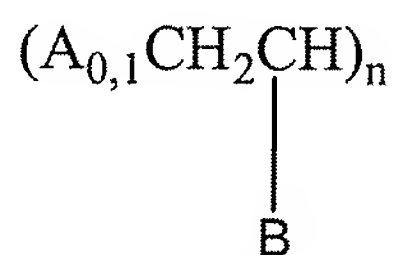
31. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 30, wherein the anionic surfactant comprises sodium dodecyl sulfate.

32. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the buffer comprises inorganic phosphate.

33. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 32, wherein the inorganic phosphate comprises about 10 to about 200 mM sodium or potassium phosphate at pH of about 7 to about 10.

34. (withdrawn) A composition comprising:

compound suitable for being immobilized on support; and  
neutral hydrophilic polymer of Formula V:



in which, A is absent, CH<sub>2</sub> or O;

n is about 100 to about 5000; and

B is -OH, -OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHR, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -SH, -SCH<sub>3</sub>,  
-COOR, -COSR, borane, boric acid, sulfone, amine oxide, or mixtures thereof;  
the neutral hydrophilic polymer being effective to substantially decrease ring  
formation upon drying of a spot less than or equal to about 300 μm diameter on a  
support.

35. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, wherein A is absent, n is  
about 600 to about 1300, and B is -OH.

36. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, wherein the neutral  
hydrophilic polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

37. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 36, wherein the polyvinyl  
alcohol comprises 88% hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol.

38. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 36, wherein the polyvinyl  
alcohol comprises polyvinyl alcohol with a molecular weight of 31-51 kD.

39. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, wherein the compound  
comprises nucleic acid.

40. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid  
comprises DNA, RNA, or mixture thereof.

41. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, further comprising anionic surfactant.

42. (currently amended) A method of forming spots of a compound on a surface, the method comprising:

applying to the surface a composition comprising:

modified compound suitable for being immobilized on the surface; and

phytate

~~an organic anion of formula I:  $R(X)_m(Y)_n$ ; in which:~~

~~R is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;~~

~~each X is independently carboxylate, phosphate, phosphonate, phosphinate, sulphate, sulphonate, thiocarboxylate, hydroxamate, or combination thereof;~~

~~each Y is independently amide, alcohol, ether, thiol, thioether, ester, thioester, borane, boric acid, metal complex;~~

~~m is 1-7; and~~

~~n 0 or greater; and~~

forming a spot on the surface.

43. (currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the ~~organic anion~~ phytate is effective to substantially decrease ring formation upon drying of a spot less than or equal to about 300  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter on a support.

44. (original) The method of claim 42, wherein the composition further comprises a buffer effective for maintaining pH of aqueous composition at greater than or equal to about 7.5.

45. (original) The method of claim 42, wherein applying comprises pin spotting or piezoelectric spotting.

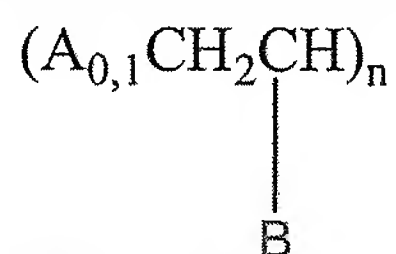


46. (withdrawn) A method of forming spots of a compound on a surface, the method comprising:

applying to the surface a composition comprising:

compound suitable for being immobilized on the surface; and

neutral hydrophilic polymer of Formula V:



in which, A is absent, CH<sub>2</sub> or O;

n is about 100 to about 5000; and

B is -OH, -OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHR, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -SH, -SCH<sub>3</sub>, -COOR, -COSR, borane, boric acid, sulfone, amine oxide, or mixtures thereof; and

forming a spot on the surface.

47. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the organic anion is effective to substantially decrease ring formation upon drying of a spot less than or equal to about 300  $\mu$ m diameter on a support.

48. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the composition further comprises a buffer effective for maintaining pH of aqueous composition at greater than or equal to about 7.5.

49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein applying comprises pin spotting or piezoelectric spotting.

50. (withdrawn) An array of spots formed by the method of claim 42.

51. (withdrawn) An array of spots formed by the method of claim ~~56~~ 46.



52. (withdrawn) A plurality of spots on a solid support, one or more of the spots comprising:

compound suitable for being immobilized on support; and

organic anion of formula:  $R(X)_m(Y)_n$ ; in which:

R is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;

each X is independently carboxylate, phosphate, phosphonate, phosphinate, sulphate, sulphonate, thiocarboxylate, hydroxamate, or combination thereof;

each Y is independently amide, alcohol, ether, thiol, thioether, ester, thioester, borane, boric acid, metal complex;

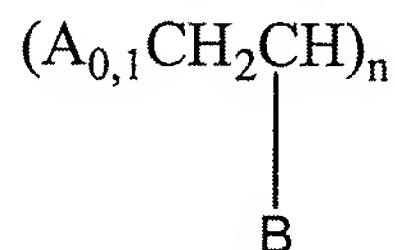
m is 1-7; and

n is 0 or greater.

53. (withdrawn) A plurality of spots on a solid support, one or more of the spots comprising:

compound suitable for being immobilized on support; and

neutral hydrophilic polymer of Formula V:



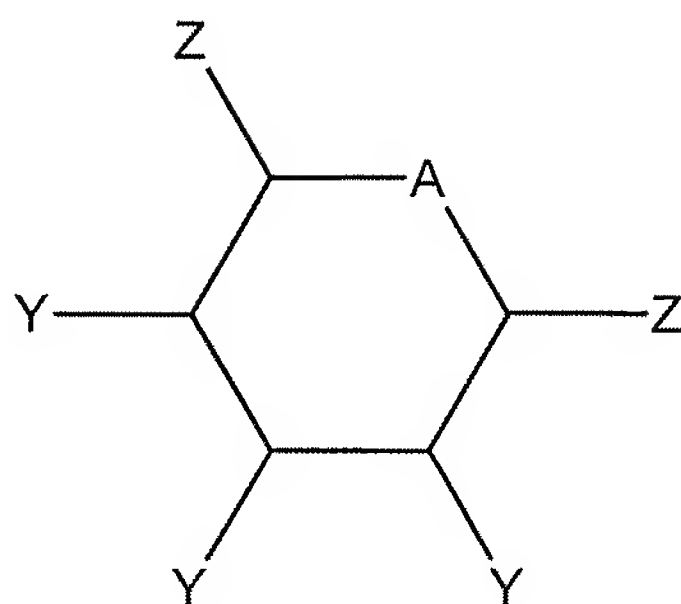
in which, A is absent,  $CH_2$  or O;

n is about 100 to about 5000; and

B is -OH, -OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHR, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -SH, -SCH<sub>3</sub>, -COOR, -COSR, borane, boric acid, sulfone, amine oxide, or mixtures thereof.

54. (withdrawn) The organic anion of claims 1, 16, 42, or 52 wherein at least one Y is an amine.

55. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the organic anion of formula I has the structure represented by formula III:



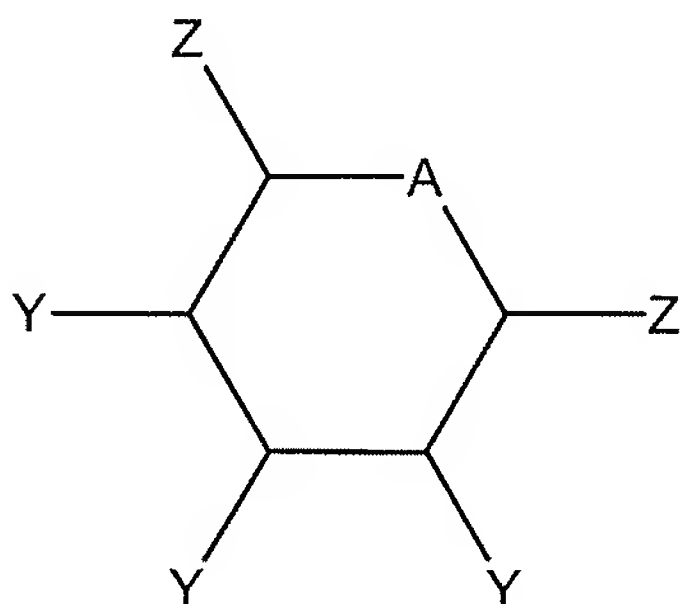
in which:

Z is  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{OPO}_3^-$  or  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{OPO}_3^-$ ; and  
 at least one Z is  $-\text{OPO}_3^-$  or  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{OPO}_3^-$ ;  
 Y is  $-\text{OH}$ ; and  
 A is  $-\text{CH}-\text{OPO}_3^-$  or O.

56. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 55, wherein the organic anion is glucose-1-phosphate, glucose-6-phosphate, or mixture thereof.

57. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one X is an amine.

58. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 16, wherein the organic anion of formula I has the structure represented by Formula III:



in which:

Z is  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{OPO}_3^-$  or  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{OPO}_3^-$ ; and  
 at least one Z is  $-\text{OPO}_3^-$  or  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{OPO}_3^-$ ;

Y is -OH; and

A is -CH-OPO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or O.

59. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 58, wherein the organic anion is glucose-1-phosphate, glucose-6-phosphate, or mixture thereof.

60. (withdrawn) The organic anion of claim 16, wherein at least one Y is an amine.

61. (withdrawn) The organic anion of claim 42, wherein at least one Y is an amine.

62. (withdrawn) The organic anion of claim 52, wherein at least one Y is an amine.

63. (new) The composition of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid comprises an amine group, a sulfhydryl group, or a mixture thereof.

64. (new) The composition of claim 18 wherein the nucleic acid comprises an amine group, a sulfhydryl group, or a mixture thereof.

65. (new) The method of claim 42 wherein the modified compound comprises an amine group, a sulfhydryl group, or a mixture thereof.